

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 /068 W  
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R 141438Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 472  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17060

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT EG  
SUBJ: MORE SPECULATION ON CABINET CHANGES

REF: CAIRO 16991

1. OCTOBER 14 AHRAH CONTINUES SPECULATE ON IMPENDING CABINET CHANGES, CLAIMING THAT WHEREVER POSSIBLE NEW MINISTERS WILL BE DRAWN FROM LEADING MEMBERS OF CENTER PARTY. PAPER MAINTAINS SAME CRITERIA WILL BE EMPLOYED IN SELECTING NEW GOVERNORS.

2. GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT RESIGNATION OF MINSTATE FOR AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES, WATER RESOURCES AND SUDANESE AFFAIRS ABD AL-AZIZ HAS BEEN ACCEPTED. NO REASON FOR RESIGNATION GIVEN. WE UNDERSTAND IT RESULTED FROM MINISTER'S PIQUE AT HIS EXCLUSION FROM OCTOBER 1 MEETING BETWEEN SADAT, OSMAN AHMED OSMAN, AND CHAIRMAN AGRIBUSINESS CAOUNCIL H.J. HEINZ II. RESIGNATION SUBMITTED  
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NEXT DAY.

3. RUMORS CONTINUE ABOUND ON LIKELY VICTIMS OF CABINET SHAKE-UP. ONLY SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO LIST OF POTENTIAL DEPARTURES CITED REFTEL IS DEP PRIMIN KAISSOUNI. ACCORDING SOME REPORTS, HE SUBMITTED RESIGNATION AFTER RETURN FROM RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BUT THIS HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN AND HE

EXPECTED REMAIN IN CABINET.

4. THERE LESS SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS. FOR MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE (IN ADDITION MURSI SA'AD AL DIN - REFTTEL), CURRENT MINECON HAMID SAYIH SPECULATED POST MIGHT GO TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON SAMIH ANWAR, WHO WAS RECENTLY IN CAIRO. WITH REGARD TO MINISTRY OF TRADE AND SUPPLY, LATEST WE HEAR IS THAT TAWFIQ WILL KEEP FOREIGN TRADE PORTFOLIO BUT THAT THIS WILL BE SEPARATED FROM SUPPLY. SAYIH THOUGHT NEW MIN SUPPLY COULD BE GAMAL EL-NAZER, SAYING "THEY ARE TRYING TO TAKE HIM FROM INVESTMENT AUTHORITY".

5. COMMENT: UNCLEAR WHAT IMPORT IS OF AHRAH'S CLAIM THAT NEW MINISTERS WILL BE DRAWN FROM CENTER PARTY: SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THIS CURRENTLY THE CASE (WITH EXCEPTION MINWAR GAMASY. FONMIN FAHMY, AND MINJUSTICE, WHO PRECLUDED BY LAW FROM MEMBERSHIP IN ANY PARTY). CONTRADICTING AHRAH, LEADER OF RIGHT PARTY MUSTAFA KEMAL MURAD TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 13 THAT, IN HIS RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, SADAT HAD MAINTAINED NEW CABINET SHOULD EMBRACE BROADEST POSSIBLE SPECTRUM OF EGYPTIAN BODY POLITIC TO INSURE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN DELICATE STAGE AHEAD. (LEFTISTS, HOWEVER, DO NOT ANTICIPATE BEING INCLUDED - SEPTTEL.) IMPLICATION OF HIS REMARKS WAS THAT MURAD EXPECTED BE IN NEW CABINET. IN POSSIBLE ANTICIPATION OF THIS, PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED MURAD'S RESIGNATION FROM POST OF CHAIRMAN EASTERN COTTON COMPANY "TO ENABLE

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HIM DEVOTE MORE TIME TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY".

6. WE HAVE HEARD THAT TIMING OF CABINET RESHUFFLE POSSIBLE FORCED BY ABD AL-AZIZ RESIGNATION NOTED PARA 2, ALTHOUGH IT MAORE LIKELY RESULT OF SADAT'S NEED TO SHOW MOVEMENT ON ECONOMIC FRONT. MOVEMENT MAY BE MORE APPARENT THAN REAL. CONTACTS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED CABINET REORGANIZATION DO NOT ANTICIPATE MAJOR POLICY CHANGES, ALTHOUGH THEY PREDICT IMPROVED "OPEN DOOR" IF SOME OF INDIVIDUALS LISTED, PARTICULARLY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, ACTUALLY GO.

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## Message Attributes

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